

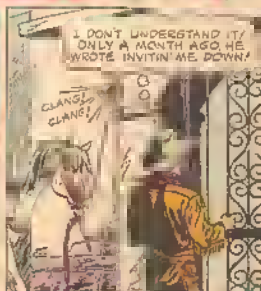




**WEB COMIC  
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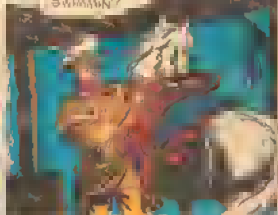


A LITTLE LATER...



MUST BE  
EL PUEBLO..  
DON LUIS  
LETTER WAS  
POSTMARKED  
FROM HERE...  
AH, SOMEBODY'S  
AWAKE!

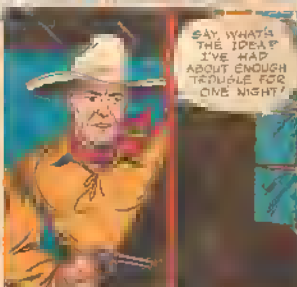
NOT FANCY SILVER-B  
BUT MAYBE WE CAN  
HOLD UP FOR THE  
NIGHT I RECKON  
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH  
SWIMMIN'



HELLO! ANYBODY  
HOME? EEE-OOW!

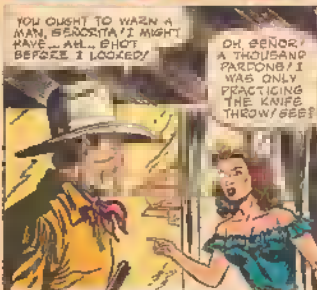


SAY WHAT'S  
THE IDEAS  
I'VE HAD  
ABOUT ENOUGH  
TROUBLE FOR  
ONE NIGHT!



YOU OUGHT TO WARN A  
MAN, SENORITA! I MIGHT  
HAVE... AH... SHOT  
BEFORE I LOOKED!

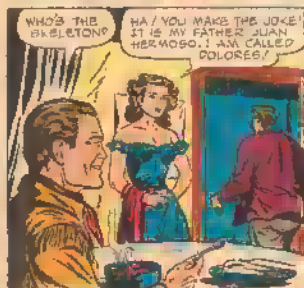
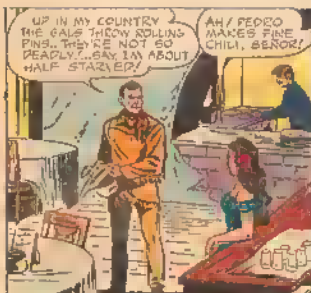
OH, SENOR!  
A THOUSAND  
PARDONS! I  
WAS ONLY  
PRACTICING  
THE KNIFE  
THROW! SEE?



YOU'RE REAL HANDY  
WITH THOSE ARKANEAS  
TOOTHPICKS, MA'AM!  
DOES THAT GO WITH  
THE DINNER?

NADA! NO!  
I DID NOT  
EXPECT A  
CUSTOMER ON  
SUCH A NIGHT!





"DON FERNANDO OBRIGON, FIRST OF THE LINE IN THE NEW WORLD, WAS A CONQUISTADOR WITH CORTES!"

"HA! THE DOGS BARK LOUDLY, LUPE, BUT THEIR BITE IS THAT OF A TOOTH-LESS BABE!"

"TRUE DON FERNANDO! AH-HA! VICTORIA!"



"WITH HIS COMRADE, CAPTAIN LUPE ORTEZ, DON OBRIGON MOVED MUCH PLUNDER INTO BONDRA..."

"BUT THE FRIENDS HAD A DISPUTE OVER THE DIVISION OF THE SPOILS..."

"WITH ALL OUR WEALTH, WE WILL BE GRAND CABALLEROS EH AMIGOS?"

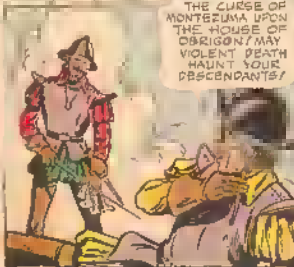


"ON GUARD SEROR!"



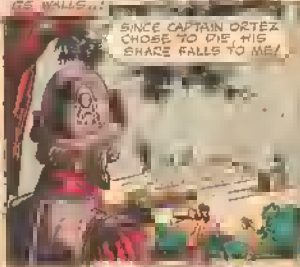
"...AND CAPTAIN ORTEZ RECEIVED A MORTAL THrust..."

"THE CURSE OF MONTZUMA UPON THE HOUSE OF OBRIGON! MAY VIOLENT DEATH HAUNT YOUR DESCENDANTS!"



"...DON FERNANDO BUILT THE OBRIGON HACIENDA, AND HID THE FORTUNE WITHIN ITS WALLS..."

"SINCE CAPTAIN ORTEZ CHOSE TO DIE, HIS SHARE FALLS TO ME!"





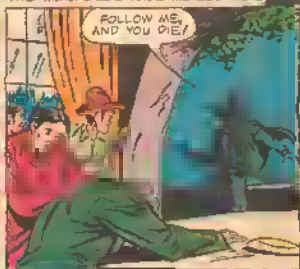
...THE STRANGER CLAIMED TO BE A DESCENDANT OF CAPTAIN ORTEZ, KILLED IN THAT DUEL LONG AGO BY DON LUZ'S ANCESTOR ...

THE MASKED MAN SHOT DON LUZ OBRIGON DEAD, THERE IN HIS OWN HACIENDA ...



THEN HE TURNED HIS GUN ON ANDREO...

THE SERVANTS RUSHED IN, BUT THE MURDERER MADE HIS ESCAPE





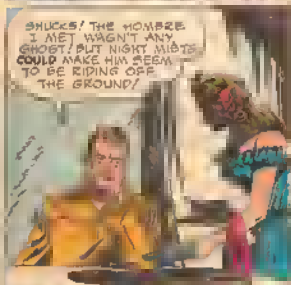


NOW, THE OBRIGON HACIENDA IS SAID TO BE HAUNTED! THE BLACK HORSEMAN IS SEEN SOMETIMES ON WILD NIGHTS....

SAY! I SAW THAT BUZZARD MYSELF!



HE RIDES IN THE AIR! PEONES THINK HIM THE GHOST OF THAT ANCIENT CONQUISTADOR, CAPTAIN COTEZ!



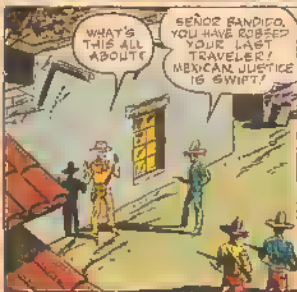
SHUCKS! THE HOMBRE I MET WAGNT ANY GHOST! BUT NIGHT MISTS COULD MAKE HIM SEEM TO BE RIDING OFF THE GROUND!



THERE IS YOUR MAN, LIEUTENANT PEREZ!

ACCOMPANY ME OUTSIDE, SENOR, IF YOU WILL BE SO KIND!

HUH?



WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

SEÑOR BANDIDO, YOU HAVE ROBBED YOUR LAST TRAVELER! MEXICAN JUSTICE IS SWIFT!



TWO PEONES SAW YOU TONIGHT, AT THE HAUNTED HACIENDA! THERE IS NO MISTAKE!

ME...THE BLACK RIDER? AM I WEARING A BLACK CLOAK? YOU'RE LOCO!



SAH! YOU COULD EASILY  
RID YOURSELF OF SUCH  
A GAGNENT!

WAIT! THE  
BLACK BANDIT  
RIDES A BLACK  
HORSE, DOESN'T  
HE?



BUT OF COURSE!  
EVERYBODY KNOWS  
THAT!

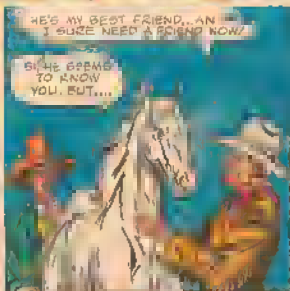
THEN WATCH...  
AND I'LL  
PROVE I'M NOT  
THE MAN!

HERE,  
SILVER-B!



A SILVER STALLION:  
AND WHERE DID  
YOU STEAL SUCH  
A ONE, SENOR  
BANDIDOS?

I RAISED  
HIM FROM A  
COLT, MISTER!



HE'S MY BEST FRIEND...AN  
I SURE NEED A FRIEND NOW!

SI, HE SEEMS  
TO KNOW  
YOU. BUT....



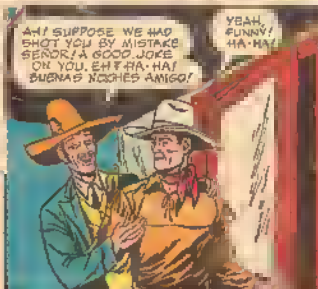
KNEEL, SILVER-B!

I AM CONVINCED!  
NO HORSE WOULD  
OBEY A STRANGER!



YOU MUST FORGIVE  
ME, EVEN A LIEUTENANT  
OF RURALES CANNOT  
CALL A WHITE HORSE  
BLACK!

THANKS! YOU ALMOST  
HAD ME KNOCKIN'  
AT THE PEARLY  
GATES!



NEXT MORNING...

YOU LEAVE US  
NOW, SENOR JONES!  
I WILL MISS YOU!

SUITS ME, DOLORES..  
JUST KEEP ON  
MISSIN' ME...WITH  
THAT THROWIN'  
KNIFE, I MEAN!



LATER...

I FEEL LIKE  
A BURGLAR  
BUT, AFTER  
ALL, I WAS  
INVITED  
HERE!



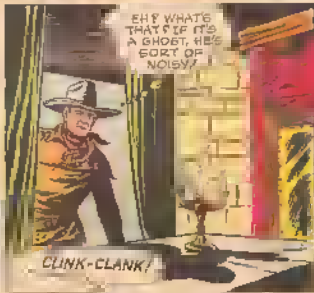
GOME LAYOUT!  
TOO BAD DON LUIS  
ISN'T AROUND TO  
WELCOME ME.  
WONDER IF THAY  
DOOR'S UNLOCKED.



YUP! WELL, I'LL GO  
WHOLE HOG, AS LONG AS  
I'M AT IT. I'D LIKE TO  
SEE WHERE THAT MASKED  
HOMBRE DID HIS SHOOTIN'



EHP WHAT'S  
THAT? IF IT'S  
A GHOST, HE'S  
SORT OF  
NOISY!



CLINK-CLANK!



PACK RATS  
IN THE CELLAR  
PROBABLY  
BUT I MIGHT  
AS WELL  
MAKE SURE!



EASY JONES! QUIT  
BUSTIN' UP THE  
FURNITURE!

CRASH!



ALTO!  
HALT!

CLATTER...  
CLATTER...



MURDERER!  
DO YOUVE COME  
BACK TO KILL  
THE LAST OF  
THE OBRIGGNS!

HOLD IT!  
I'M A FRIEND!

BLAM!



STRIKE A LIGHT  
THEN SO I CAN  
SEE YOU!

OKAY! BUT MY  
COMMON EENSE  
TELLS ME I'M  
LOCO



SO YOU ARE BUCK  
JONES & MY FATHER  
SPROKS HIGHLY OF YOU  
... THIS LETTER IS  
IN HIS HANDWRITING

I GOT IT FROM  
HIM A MONTH  
AGO. BUT...ANDER!  
YOU'RE SUPPOSED  
TO BE... DEAD!



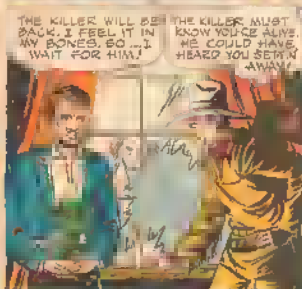
YES, I KNOW, THE  
MURDERER'S BULLET  
CLIPPED ME. I FELL  
FROM THE WINDOW!

AND CRAWLED  
AWAY IN THE  
DARK, BUT



EXACTLY I MUST HAVE  
BEEN—WHAT YOU SAY—  
GROSSY. WHEN I GOT  
MY BEAN WORKING  
AGAIN, THE HOUSE  
WAS DESERTED!

YOU'VE BEEN  
LIVING IN  
THE CELLAR  
EVER SINCE?  
WHY?



THE KILLER WILL BE  
BACK. I FEEL IT IN  
MY BONES. SO...I  
WAIT FOR HIM!

THE KILLER MUST  
KNOW YOU'RE ALIVE.  
HE COULD HAVE  
HEARD YOU SETIN'  
AWAY!



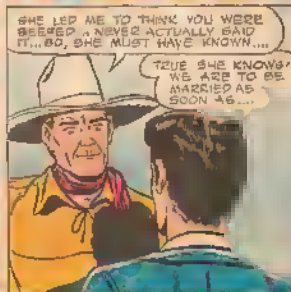
I SUPPOSE  
SO. ONE OTHER  
KNOWS, ALSO...

A LITTLE GAL  
NAMED DOLORES  
MAYBE? HUM?



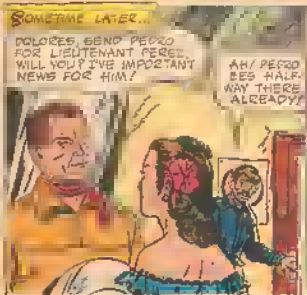
BUT YES! HOW  
DID YOU  
GUESS?

EAGY. SHE TOLD ME  
DON LUZ, YOUR FATHER,  
WAS FOUND DEAD. BUT  
SHE DIDN'T MENTION  
THAT YOU WERE  
KILLED ALSO!



SHE LED ME TO THINK YOU WERE  
BEEFED. A NEVSE? ACTUALLY SAID  
IT...SO, SHE MUST HAVE KNOWN....

TRUE SHE KNOWS.  
WE ARE TO BE  
MARRIED AS  
SOON AS...



WHAT? YOUNG ANDREO ALIVE? WE TOOK  
IT FOR GRANTED HE WAS MURDERED  
ALSO...AND HIS BODY HIDDEN IN THE  
ROCKS!

HE IS THE LIVELIEST  
DEAD MAN YOU EVER  
SAW, LIEUTENANT!



"A SORT OF  
THOUGHT YOU  
COULD PREPARE  
THE TOWNSFOLK

MARVELOUS! I  
WILL BE OUT  
IN THE MORNING  
... WITH THE WHOLE  
VILLAGE! AH!  
A FIESTA!



OH, PEDRO! ISN'T  
IT GLORIOUS NOW  
WE CAN BE  
MARRIED!

BUT SEÑORITA,  
I DO NOT WANT  
TO BE MARRIED!



NOT YOU STUPID ONE! IT IS  
MY ANDREO I WILL  
MARRY! TRA-LA-TEA  
LA-LA!

OH! THAT EYES  
DIFFERENT! I  
WEEGH YOU  
LUCK! DOOPS!



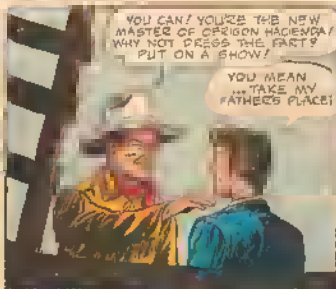
A-EE, AT THE HAUNTED HACIENDA...

IT'S ALL SET, ANDREO! THE  
WHOLE TOWN WILL BE OUT  
IN THE MORNING. YOU BETTER  
OPEN A KEG OF HORSESHOES!  
BIG FIESTA!

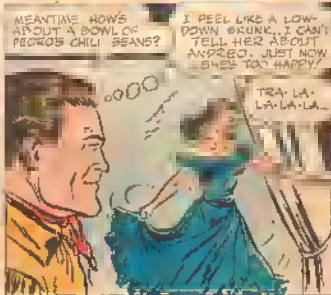
THEY'RE  
GOOD PEOPLE!  
I WISH I COULD  
DO SOMETHING  
TO MAKE THEM  
HAPPY!











AH THAT PEDRO! HE  
IS NOT HERE! PROBABLY  
HE'S SLEEPING IN A  
HAYSTACK - HE TRACKS  
HAY ALL OVER THE KITCHEN  
THAT'S WHY!

SKIP IT  
DOLORES  
I'M NOT  
HUNGRY I'VE  
GOTTA GO!



NOW WHAT'S THE  
TROUBLE WITH ECK  
JONES? MAYBE HE  
THINKS I CAN  
NOT COOK!



IT IS NOT GOOD FOR  
SEÑOR JONES TO GO  
AWAY ANGRY! I MUST  
CATCH HIM AND MAKE  
APOLOGY... FOR WHAT I  
DON'T KNOW, THOUGH!

A  
LORD



MEANTIME ANDREO DONS HIS FATHER'S  
FINEST COSTUME...

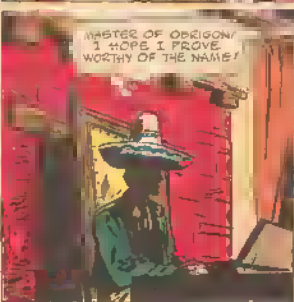
AH! ANDREO!  
YOU ARE A  
GRAND  
CABALLERO!  
THE LOVELY  
DOLORES  
WILL  
BE VERY  
PLEASED!



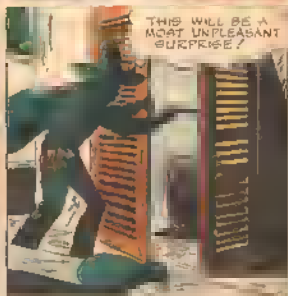
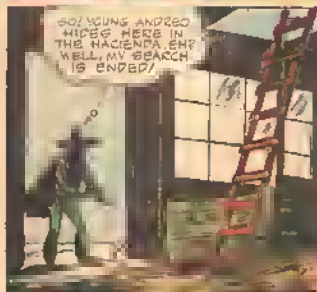
I'LL JUST TAKE FATHER'S  
PETS ALONG... AND NOW, TO  
REHEARSE MY BIG SCENE!



MASTER OF OBRIGONI!  
I HOPE I PROVE  
WORTHY OF THE NAME!

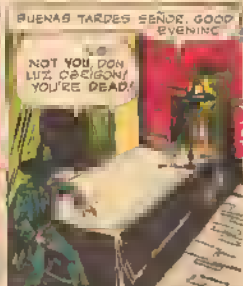


ANDREO SLEEPS... AND THE MIGHTY DEEDS OF OBVIOUSLY LONG DEAD RIGGS  
IN REVIEW IN HIS DREAMS...





IS THE CANDLE  
LIGHT PLAYING  
TRICKS ON MY  
EYES...CZ HAVE  
I MURDERED ONCE  
TOO OFTEN?



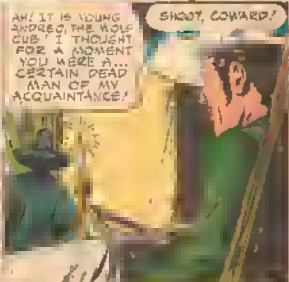
BUENAS TARDES SEÑOR. GOOD  
EVENING

NOT YOU, DON  
LUZ OBEIGON!  
YOU'RE DEAD!



WITH MY  
OWN HAND  
I KILLED  
YOU!

WITH YOUR OWN  
HAND YOU KILLED  
MY FATHER...  
...YOU SWINE!



AH! IT IS YOUNG  
ANDREO, THE WOLF  
CUB! I THOUGHT  
FOR A MOMENT  
YOU WERE A...  
CERTAIN DEAD  
MAN OF MY  
ACQUAINTANCE!

SHOOT, COWARD!

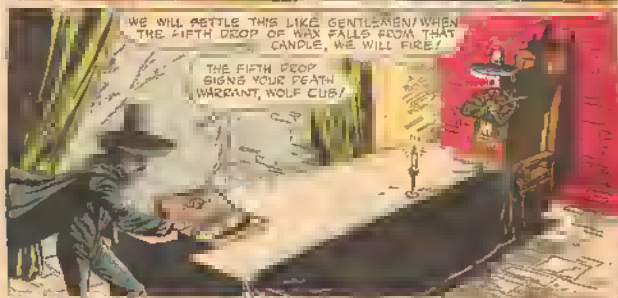
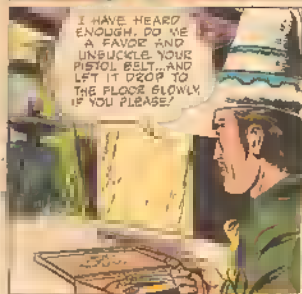
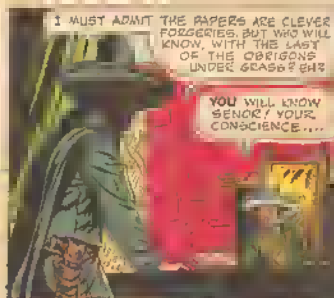


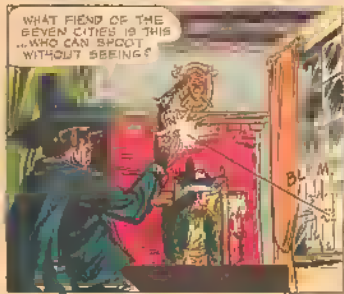
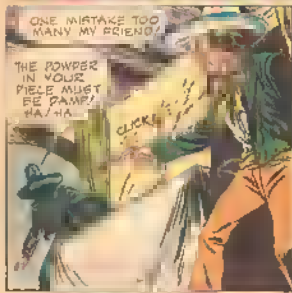
THERE'S NO HURRY  
YOU WILL BE ON  
YOUR WAY SHORTLY  
MEANTIME, ANGEL,  
A PLEASANT  
CHAT, NOR



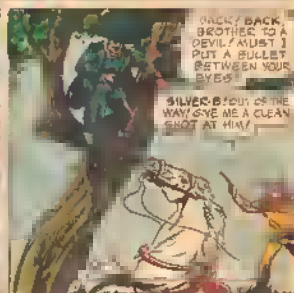
OF COURSE I  
KILLED YOUR  
FATHER. HE HELD  
FROM ME WHAT  
WAS RIGHTFULLY  
MINE!

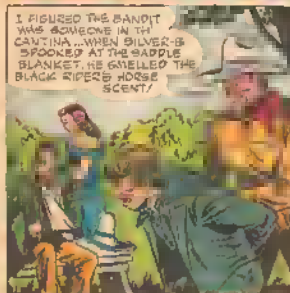
HALF THE  
TREASURE OF  
MONTEZUMA!  
BAH! YOU'RE  
AN IMPOSTER!









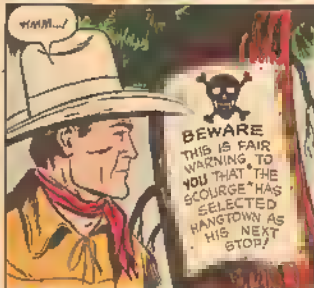


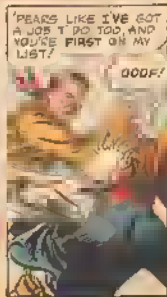
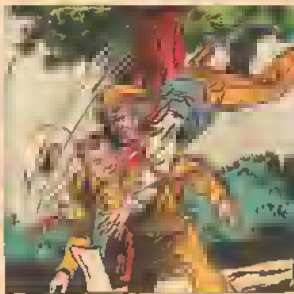
# BUCK JONES

THAT  
POSTER IS  
NEW THINK  
I'LL HAVE  
A LOOK!

MR. "OWLHOOT  
ALLYHOO"

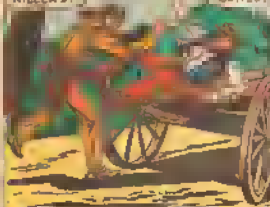
BUCK JONES IS RIDING TO  
TOWN TO ORDER SUPPLIES





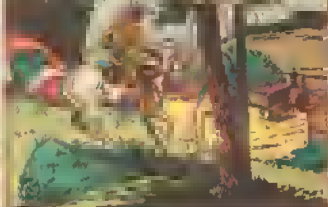
TELL FLASHY BARLOW WE APPRECIATE HIS ADVANCE CAMPAIGN ON THE SCOURGE, BUT HANGTOWN DOESN'T COTTON TO KILLERS!

YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR THIS, JONES!



GIORN...

I SURE CAN'T FIGURE THE SCOURGE ANGLE! WHY WOULD A PROFESSIONAL GUN-THROWER ADVERTISE HIS VISIT?



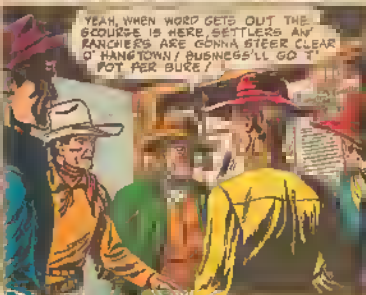
HMM, A CROWD GATHERED AROUND THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE MAYBE I'M GOIN' TO FIND THE ANSWER RIGHT HERE!



SHUCKS MEN, IFN THAT ORNERY GUNMAN COMES T' HANGTOWN, IT AINT EVEN GONNA BE SAFE FER HONEST FOLKS T' WALK ABOARD IN DAYLIGHT!



YEAH, WHEN WORD GETS OUT THE SCOURGE IS HERE, SETTLERS AN' RANCHERS ARE GONNA STEER CLEAR O' HANGTOWN! BUSINESS'LL GO T' POT PER BURE!



## Hangtown Gazette

### SCOURGE TO VISIT HANGTOWN!

WORD HAS REACHED THE EDITORS THE NOTORIOUS BADMAN, THE SCOURGE, WILL HONOR HANGTOWN BY A VISIT SATURDAY, 3 PM. MENESIS OF ALL PEACE OFFICERS, THE SCOURGE HAS LEFT A BLOODY TRAIL THROUGH THREE STATES AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL BE HELD TODAY TO FORM A PLAN ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE BADMAN IT IS ADVISED THAT ALL IT IS ADVISED THAT ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN

AM READING MY NEWS, EH?  
I'M FLASHY FARROW ADVANCE  
MAN FOR THE 'SCOURGE',  
UNLESS YOU ACCEPT MY OFFER  
THERE'S GONNA BE BIG POIN'S!

OFFER? WHAT  
OFFERS?

FOR FIVE THOUSAND  
DOLLARS I'LL SEE  
THAT THE SCOURGE  
BY-PASSES HAYTOWN!

IN OTHER WORDS,  
WE PAY UP OR THE  
SCOURGE FILLS  
BOOTHILL WITH A  
LOT OF INNOCENT  
PEOPLE, EH?

VERY WELL, PUT  
MY MAN WITHOUGH  
A TRIFLE CRUEL!

ER, BUCK, AS SHERIFF,  
MY ADVICE IS T' KICK  
IN/ FROM WHAT I  
HEAR, NO LAWMAN  
HAS BEEN ABLE TO  
COPE WITH THE  
SCOURGE!

WITH A MAC-  
ROSS KILLER  
RUNNIN' WIL'D, US  
MEECHANTS STAND  
T' LOSE PLENTY  
OF BUSINESS!  
NE, I SAY PAY!

YOU MEN ARE PLUMB LOCO TO  
PAY TRIBUTE TO A SKUNK WHOSE  
PUBLICITY STINKS WORSE THAN  
HE DOES! MY ADVICE IS TO  
CALL HIS HAND!

ARE YOU  
ELECTING  
YOURSELF  
AS THE MAN  
TO DEAL WITH  
THE SCOURGE?

MISTER, I'M NOT  
LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE  
... BUT I'M READY,  
WILLIN', AND ABLE TO  
MEET IT WHEN IT  
COMES!

YOU TELL  
EM, BUCK!

WHAT NIGHT AT THE  
HANGTOWN HOTEL...

IN WORRIED  
NAILES! SINCE BUCK  
JONES SET HIMSELF  
UP AS THE PEOPLE'S  
CHAMPION, NOT A SOUL  
HIS KICKED IN A RED  
CENT!



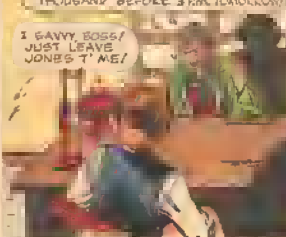
THAT BUCK JONES IS  
TH' SAME RINGEY HOMER  
WHO TANGLED WITH ME  
THIS AFTERNOON! HE'S  
BAD MEDICINE!

I KNOW  
WHAT TO  
DO FOR BAD  
MEDICINE!



NOW IF JONES WAS OUT OF  
THE WAY, THE TOWNSFOLK WOULD  
READILY GIVE! WE'D HAVE FIVE  
THOUSAND BEFORE 3 PM TOMORROW!

I SAVVY BOSS!  
JUST LEAVE  
JONES T' ME!



LEAVING AT THE  
SHERIFFS OFFICE

I AIN'T ASHAMED T' CONFESS  
I WANT NO TRUCK WITH  
THE SCOURGE, BUCK! FRANKLY,  
I'M MIGHTY GLAD YOU  
ASKED T' BE DEPUTIZED!

SHERIFFS  
OFFICE

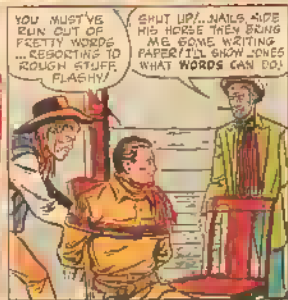


I CAN'T STAND BY  
AND SEE MY FRIENDS  
VICTIMIZED BY A  
BRAGGIN' LEATHER-  
SLAPPER AND HIS TUB  
THUMPER! ADIOS, SHERIFF!



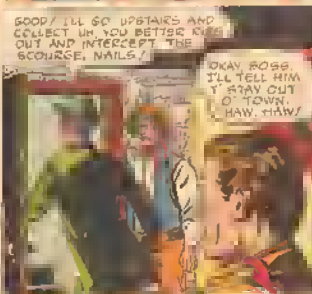
HUH! IT'S ABOUT  
T' F JONES  
S' ID ADIOS T'  
TH' STOVE-UP  
LAW DOG!

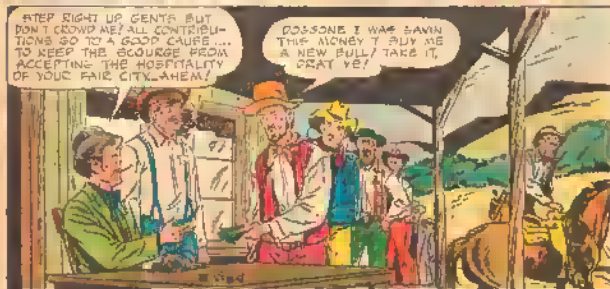
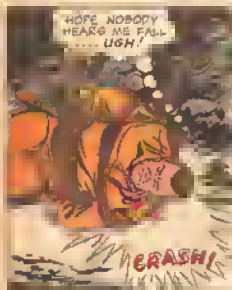






THE NEXT MORNING...







SHOULD I  
GET UP A  
POSSIBLE  
BUCKET

NO! I AIM TO WELCOME  
THE SCURGE PERSON-  
ALLY WHEN HE GETS  
HERE! THIS IS THE LAST  
TOWN HE'LL EVER SHAKE  
DOWN!



GOSH I KNEW  
YOU WOULDN'T  
LET US DOWN  
BUCK!

I WAS HOSTED  
IN THE CELLAR  
THAT NOTE YOU  
GOT WAS A PHONY  
FLASHY WHEELS  
MY HORSE SILVER



IF I TELL  
YOU, HOW  
ABOUT  
LETTING ME  
SEE THE FUN,  
JONES?

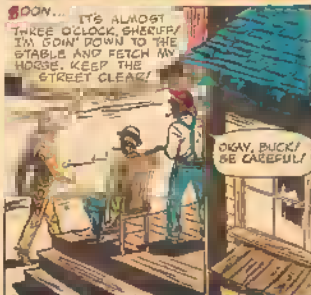
YOU CAN HAVE A BOX  
SEAT FOR ALL 1 CARE!  
SHERIFF, FRISK HIM!  
FOR A HIDE-OUT GUN!  
HE'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY  
FROM HERE ON!



HUMPH, NOTHIN'  
BUT A TOOTH-  
BRUSH, SHAVIN'  
MIRROR AN' EAZOR  
IN HIS POCKETS.  
BUCK?

IN MY BUSINESS.  
SHERIFF, ONE  
TRAVELS LIGHT!

AND  
LIGHT-  
HEADED  
I RECKON



BOON... IT'S ALMOST  
THREE O'CLOCK, SHERIFF!  
I'M GOIN' DOWN TO THE  
STABLE AND FETCH MY  
HORSE. KEEP THE  
STREET CLEAR!

OKAY, BUCK!  
BE CAREFUL!



HA HERE COMES THE  
SCOURGE FROM THE  
OTHER END OF TOWN!  
I RECOGNIZE THE  
BLACK BILK STOCKING  
MASK HE ALWAYS  
WEARS!

OH-OH!  
ULP!

